

United States Navy Band

The United States Navy Band has been the Navy's premier musical organization since 1925. The Band is directed by Captain Ralph M. Gambone, the 11th officer to hold this position. Located in the Sail Loft at the historic Washington Navy Yard, the Band presents honors at official ceremonies and memorial services in addition to performing hundreds of public concerts annually throughout the Washington metropolitan area and around the country. Recognized as "The World's Finest," the Band features some of the nation's top musicians and performs a wide variety of music ranging from classical orchestral works to original arrangements of current popular favorites, as well as traditional marches and patriotic fare.

Congress established the United States Navy Band on March 4, 1925. During its 80 years of service, the Navy Band has become associated with events of national and international significance. The Band has participated in 20 presidential inaugurations and often appears at national dedications and memorial services, recently playing a vital role in the State Funeral for President Ronald Reagan.

From its earliest days, the Navy Band has been associated with distinguished celebrities. In 1929, it took to the airwaves with Arthur Godfrey on NBC's "Hour of Memories" radio show. Lt. Robert Taylor and Lt.(j.g.) Gene Kelly were featured performers on "The Navy Hour" radio program, which the Band produced for astounding 23 years from 1945-1968. More recently, the Band has had the honor to perform with Academy Award honorees such as Ernest Borgnine, Tony Curtis and Gregory Peck. The Band continues to be a presence on network radio and television, including a performance of "America the Beautiful" in 2002 that was broadcast nationally by the NFL prior to each game during opening week.

Internationally, the Navy Band has taken Navy Music around the world. The Band has appeared at military tattoos and festivals in Oslo, Stockholm and Quebec City. The Band also performed in 1996 at the 300th Anniversary of the Russian Fleet in St. Petersburg and at The Baltic International Festival of the Fleets in Kaliningrad, Russia.

The Navy Band is at the forefront of music education, sponsoring the "International Saxophone Symposium" and the "Music in the Schools" program for elementary and secondary schools. In addition, the Band is in constant demand by the nation's foremost musical education organizations, such as the American Bandmasters Association and The Midwest Clinic - An International Band and Orchestra Conference.

The Navy Band occupies a position of national prominence as both a service tradition and a distinguished musical organization.

UNITED STATES NAVY BAND HIGHLIGHTS

2005 - (Mar.) presents **80th Anniversary Concert** at DAR Constitution Hall hosted by **The Honorable Gordon R. England**, Secretary of the Navy with guest speaker, **The Honorable Dionel M. Aviles**, Under Secretary of the Navy

- (Oct.) performs with guest narrator, Academy Award winner **Ernest Borgnine** for the Navy's **230th Birthday Concert** at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington

2004 - (May) performs at the dedication of the **National World War II Memorial** with guest speaker **President George W. Bush** in Washington

- (Jun.) participates in the **State Funeral of President Ronald W. Reagan** in Washington

- (Sep.) performs at the seventh **Norwegian Military Tattoo** in Oslo

- (Oct.) performs with guest narrator, Academy Award winner **Ernest Borgnine** for the Navy's **229th Birthday Concert** at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington

2003 - (Feb.) performs at the **Space Shuttle Columbia STS-107 Memorial Service** at Washington National Cathedral in Washington with guest speaker **Vice President Richard Cheney**

- (Mar.) performs at the **69th Annual Convention of the American Bandmasters Association** at the University of Maryland (College Park)

2002 - (Sep.) videotapes "**America the Beautiful**" for national television broadcast by the NFL prior to each opening day football game

- (Sep.) performs for "**Beam of Hope**" candlelight vigil marking the first anniversary of 9/11 at **Freedom Plaza** in Washington

- (Oct.) performs with guest narrator, Academy Award winner **Ernest Borgnine** for the Navy's **227th Birthday Concert** at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington

2001 - (Jun.) provides music for the dedication ceremony of **The National D-Day Memorial** with guest speaker **President George W. Bush** in Bedford, Va.

- (Oct.) provides music for the **United in Memory** memorial service at the Pentagon with guest speaker **President George W. Bush**

- (Oct.) performs with guest narrator, actor **Tony Curtis** for the Navy's **226th Birthday Concert** at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington

- (Dec.) presents opening concert of the **55th Annual Conference of The Midwest Clinic** in Chicago with guest conductor, **Robert Jager**

2000 - (Jan.) performs at the **111th Tournament of Roses Parade** in Pasadena, Calif.

- (Mar.) presents **75th Anniversary Concert** at DAR Constitution Hall hosted by **The Honorable Richard Danzig**, Secretary of the Navy

- (Apr.) Chief of Naval Operations **Adm. Jay L Johnson** presents **Meritorious Unit Commendation** to the band for outstanding service. Previous awards in 1971, 1973, 1976, 1990 and 1995

- (Jul.) performs at Central Park, Staten Island and on the USS *Nassau* (LHA 4) in conjunction with the **International Naval Review 2000** in New York

1999 - (Aug.) performs for the **100th Anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars** at their National Convention held in Kansas City, Mo.

- (Aug.) performs for the first "**Festival International de Musiques Militaires de Quebec**" in historic Quebec City

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1998 - (May) performs for rededication ceremony of the **Wright Brothers National Memorial** with guest speakers former **President Bush**, **Buzz Aldrin** and **David Hartman** at Kill Devil Hills, N.C.

- (Sep.) second appearance at the **International Swedish Army Tattoo** in Stockholm

- (Sep.) presents fifth annual **"Newly Published Music Workshop"** with Jack Bullock, Cheryl Floyd, Richard Floyd, Anthony J. Maiello and Frank Mantooth

- (Oct.) performs with guest narrator, Academy Award winner **Gregory Peck** for the Navy's **223rd Birthday Concert** at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

1997 - (Jan.) performs on NBC's **"Today Show"** during Presidential Inaugural celebration in Washington

- (Mar.) performs at **American Bandmasters Association International Convention** in San Diego

- (May) performs at **Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Ceremony of Dedication** in Washington

- (Jul.) performs at **Fort Vancouver Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular** in Vancouver, Wash.

- (Sep.) presents fourth annual **"Newly Published Music Workshop"** with Richard Dunscomb, David R. Holsinger, Robert Jager, Jerry F. Junkin and Anthony Maiello

- (Oct.) performs at dedication of the **Women In Military Service For America Memorial** at Arlington National Cemetery

1996 - (Mar.) Navy Band and "Sea Chanters" chorus perform at **Carnegie Hall**

- (Jul.) performs at **300th Anniversary of the Russian Fleet** in St. Petersburg, and at **The Baltic International Festival of the Fleets** in Kaliningrad, Russia

- (Dec.) presents opening concert of the **50th Annual Mid-West International Band and Orchestra Clinic** in Chicago with guest conductor, Pulitzer Prize-winning composer **Karel Husa**

- (Dec.) featured in second annual nationwide satellite broadcast of Navy Band Holiday Concert on **"Navy Live"** productions from DAR Constitution Hall in Washington

1995 - (Feb.) receives 1994 **Navy Personal Excellence Partnership/Community Service Award** for the National Capital Region

- (Nov.) appears on NBC's **"Today Show"** as part of Veteran's Day festivities in New York

- (Dec.) performs **"Pageant of Peace"** with **Jack Jones**, **Denyce Graves** and **Kathie Lee Gifford** at the lighting of the National Christmas Tree in Washington

1994 - (Jun.) performs opening ceremony for **World Cup Soccer Match** at R.F.K. Stadium in Washington

- (Sep.) presents **"Newly Published Music Workshop"** at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. Guest conductors include **James Curnow**, **Bruce Pearson** and **H. Robert Reynolds**

1993 - (Mar.) receives **Music Educators National Conference "Certificate of Excellence"** for participation in MENC's Eastern Division Conference in Springfield, Mass.

- (May) performs in the **Memphis in May "International Festival Tattoo"** in Memphis, Tenn.

- (Jul.) featured in the **National Independence Day Celebration** on the Washington Monument grounds, marking the band's seventh annual appearance at the event

- (Oct.) performs for **Bicentennial of the U.S. Capitol** and reinstallation of the **"Statue of Freedom"** to the U.S. Capitol dome, with **Liza Minelli** and the **Howard University chorus**

1992 - (Apr.) **Capt. William J. Phillips** is first captain to be appointed Officer in Charge/Leader

- (Aug.) performs 30th annual **Children's "Lollipops" Concert** at Sylvan Theatre on Washington Monument grounds

- (Sep.) performs at the **International Swedish Army Tattoo** in Stockholm

- (Dec.) receives **The Col. George S. Howard Citation of Musical Excellence** for Military Concert Bands from the **John Philip Sousa Foundation**

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1991 - (Jan.) performs **Chief Musician Mike Stein's "We Are With You"** in support of Operation Desert Shield, on ABC's **"Good Morning America"** television show

- (Jun.) marches in Washington and New York parades honoring **"Operation Desert Storm"** troops
- (Nov.) initiates **"Music in the Schools"** program offering concerts and workshops by Navy professionals in Washington area schools

1990 - (May) performs at White House arrival ceremonies honoring **Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev**

1989 - (Jan.) featured in **American Bicentennial Presidential Inaugural** activities in Washington

- (Apr.) performs as part of New York parade commemorating **Bicentennial of George Washington's Inaugural**

1987 - (Jul.) opens **National Public Radio's "Greatest Bands in the Land"** series

- (Sep.) appears in nationally televised **Constitution Bicentennial Parade** in Philadelphia
- (Dec.) presents opening concert of the **Mid-West International Band and Orchestra Clinic** in Chicago followed by clinic with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer **Karel Husa**

1986 - (May) appears at **75th Anniversary of Naval Aviation** in Pensacola, Fla.

- (Jul.) participates in **Statue of Liberty rededication** in New York

1981 - (Jan.) performs for the **52 American hostages** returning to Andrews Air Force Base following captivity in Iran

1978 - (Mar.) sponsors first **International Saxophone Symposium**, featuring the Concert Band, Commodores and guest artists

1976 - (Jul. 4) performs aboard the carrier USS *Forrestal* during **"Operation Sail"** festivities marking the nation's bicentennial celebration in New York

1975 - (Mar. 4) presents **50th Anniversary Concert** at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts with guest artists **Arthur Fiedler** and **Julius La Rosa**

1968 - **"Navy Hour" radio show** ends after 23 years

1962 - (Aug.) performs first **Children's "Lollipops" Concert** at Potomac Watergate

1940 - **American Bandmasters Association** recognizes the Navy Band as "The World's Finest"

1932 - (Feb. 22) **John Philip Sousa** makes his last appearance with a major band when he guest conducts the Navy Band at the U.S. Capitol for the **bicentennial of George Washington's birth**

1929 - welcomes home **Rear Adm. Richard Byrd** following his South Pole flight

- **Lt. Charles Benter**, the band's first leader, along with **Dr. Edwin Franco Goldman** and **John Philip Sousa**, organize the American Bandmasters Association

1927 - welcomes home **Col. Charles Lindbergh** at the Washington Navy Yard dock on his return on the cruiser USS *Memphis*, following his historic transatlantic flight

1925 - (Mar. 4) **President Calvin Coolidge** signs a bill establishing **The United States Navy Band** and giving approval for national tours

WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT THE UNITED STATES NAVY BAND...

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH: "...and I want to thank the Navy Band. Every time I hear you play I step a little lighter."

FORMER PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH: "...the always impeccable, seemingly perfect, United States Navy Band."

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS: "Our Navy's band is magnificent. Its repertoire is varied and its style in all it plays is direct and just."

SALT LAKE TRIBUNE: "The United States Navy Band literally blew itself into the hearts of an audience which jammed the Tabernacle Tuesday night. The group performing was, without a doubt, one of the finest bands in existence."

THE CAPITAL (Annapolis, Md.): "Demonstrated why it [Navy Band] may rightfully claim the title 'world's finest'...sophisticated instrumentation and stirring sound."

TEXAS LUTHERAN COLLEGE (Seguin, Texas): "...the concert was superb! The quality and versatility of the performance were incredible and the showmanship was outstanding--a great time was had by all!"

DAILY PRESS (Utica, N.Y.): "The Navy Band put on a remarkable display of versatility. Imagine! Beethoven and Count Basie, Rachmaninoff and John Philip Sousa, Debussy and Tommy Dorsey all on the same program...the conductor steered the band in impeccable style from orchestral compositions to jazz to hymns."

STANDARD-SPEAKER, (Hazelton, Pa.): "U.S. Navy Band in a word--great...it was a night to remember for lovers of great music."

CHRONICLE-INDEPENDENT (Camden, S.C.): "Our newspaper recently sponsored an appearance of the U.S. Navy Band and it was an overwhelming success. The band was flawless, as usual, and enthralled the large crowd with its great blend of selections."

GRAMOPHONE MAGAZINE (Middlesex, England): "The U.S. Navy Band is certainly one of the finest in the world."

MURRAY LEDGER & TIMES (Ky.): "It was an inspirational performance...the patriotic fervor of the audience was aroused by the band's selections and professionalism. The proof: standing ovations from the audience."

DAILY HERALD (Arlington Heights, Ill.): "There's nothing quite as American as band music...Wednesday night's visit by the U.S. Navy Band should leave no doubt that this tradition is being maintained at its highest level."

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR OF THE DALLAS SYMPHONY: "...The U.S. Navy Band is an exemplary ambassador to the American people. I look forward to their next tour to the Dallas area."

